

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to a low-cost, remotely accessible surveillance method and system easily adaptable for personal or small-entity use. In one example embodiment, a request for image data is delivered via a first communications system, such as a telephone system, to a programmable surveillance system. The programmable surveillance system has a camera adapted to capture images that are processed as data by a first computer arrangement. In response to the request from the first communications system, the programmable surveillance system automatically accesses and delivers image data captured by the camera to a second communications system. A second computer arrangement is adapted to communicatively couple with the second communications system and to receive and process data including the image data delivered by the first computer arrangement. The received image data is displayed using the second computer arrangement, facilitating on-demand, remote image monitoring.